

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 11379 040041Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7198

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 11379

STATE FOR ARA

USIA FOR ILA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC MX

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE- US PRISONERS' HUNGER STRIKE

IF DEPT CONCURS, EMB IS PREPARED TO GIVE
FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES REGARDING
PROPOSED HUNGER STRIKE WHICH AMERICAN PRISONERS INTEND
TO PUT INTO EFFECT ON SEPT. 7:

QUOTE: AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH
WITH MOST OF THE AMERICAN PRESIONERS. THEY HAVE ASSURED THEM
THAT THE 'PRISONER EXCHANGE' PROPOSAL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY
STUDIED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS ON THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY
SINCE THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE LAST JUNE DURING SECRETARY OF
STATE HENRY KISSNGER'S VISIT TO MEXICO. THE EMBASSY IS
HOPEFUL THAT IT MAY PROVE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT
FOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE.

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THE PRISONERSTHAT NEGOTIATIONS OF
THIS TYPE, REQUIRING RECONCILIATION OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH
ARE PESENTE BY THE DIFFERING LEGAL SYSTEMS OF THE TWO
COUNTRIES, ALWAYS TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. DURING OUR
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TALKS WITH THE PRISONERS WE HAVE REITERATED OUR

CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFFARE AND OUT DESIRE FOR SUCCESSFUL
NEGOTIATION OF THE TRANSFER OF SANCTIONS PROPOSAL. WHILE IT
IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS,
WE HAVE ASSURED THE PRISONERS THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
IS PRESSING FORWARD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE
NEGOTIATIONS.
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